

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A preparation method for a lithographic printing plate, which comprises forming a presensitized plate by coating a photosensitive layer or thermosensitive layer on an anodized aluminum substrate treated with an aqueous solution, image-wise exposing the plate and developing the plate with a developer comprising no silicate, wherein the aqueous solution comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of nitrite group-containing compound, fluorine atom-containing compound and phosphorous atom-containing compound ~~and the aqueous solution essentially comprises nitrite group-containing compound or fluorine atom-containing compound~~, with the proviso that when the at least one compound is fluorine atom-containing compound, the treated aluminum substrate has a surface which satisfies the formula : $0.30 \leq A/(A+B) \leq 0.90$ wherein, A represents peak area of fluorine atom (1S) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis (ESCA), and B represents peak area of aluminum atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA and, when the at least one compound is phosphorous atom-containing compound, the treated aluminum substrate has a surface which satisfies the formula: $0.05 \leq A/(A+B) \leq 0.70$ wherein, A represents peak area of phosphorous atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA, and B represents peak area of aluminum atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA, and wherein an intermediate layer is present between the anodized aluminum substrate and

the photosensitive layer or thermosensitive layer and said intermediate layer is comprised of polymer compound comprising acid group and onium group.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the nitrite group-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrous acid, metal salt of nitrous acid and ammonium salt of nitrous acid.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fluorine atom-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of metal fluoride and hexafluorozirconic acid, hexafluorotitanic acid, hexafluorosilicic acid, fluorophosphoric acid, and metal or ammonium salt thereof.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the phosphorous atom-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, phosphotungstic acid, phosphomolybdic acid, fluorophosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid, polyphosphoric acid, metaphosphoric acid, metal or ammonium salt thereof, and phosphonic acid group-containing compound.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the developer comprising no silicate is a developer comprising (a) at least one sugar selected from non-reducing sugars and (b) at least one base (except for silicate) and having pH ranging from 9.0 to 13.5.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A preparation method for a lithographic printing plate, which comprises forming a presensitized plate by coating a positive-working photosensitive layer or positive-working thermosensitive layer on an anodized aluminum substrate treated with an aqueous solution, image-wise exposing the plate and developing the plate with a developer comprising no silicate, wherein the aqueous solution comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of nitrite group-containing compound, fluorine atom-containing compound and phosphorous atom-containing compound with the proviso that when the at least one compound is fluorine atom-containing compound, the treated aluminum substrate has a surface which satisfies the formula: $0.30 \leq A/(A+B) \leq 0.90$ wherein, A represents peak area of fluorine atom (1S) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis (ESCA), and B represents peak area of aluminum atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA, and when the at least one compound is phosphorous atom-containing compound, the treated aluminum substrate has a surface which satisfies the formula: $0.05 \leq A/(A+B) \leq 0.70$ wherein, A represents peak area of phosphorous atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA, and B represents peak area of aluminum atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA, and wherein an intermediate layer is present between the anodized aluminum substrate and the photosensitive layer or

thermosensitive layer and said intermediate layer is comprised of polymer compound comprising acid group and onium group.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the nitrite group-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrous acid, metal salt of nitrous acid and ammonium salt of nitrous acid.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the fluorine atom-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of metal fluoride and hexafluorozirconic acid, hexafluorotitanic acid, hexafluorosilicic acid, fluorophosphoric acid, and metal or ammonium salt thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the phosphorous atom-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, phosphotungstic acid, phosphomolybdic acid, fluorophosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid, polyphosphoric acid, metaphosphoric acid, metal or ammonium salt thereof, and phosphoric acid group-containing compound.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the developer comprising no silicate is a developer comprising (a) at least one sugar selected from non-reducing sugars and (b) at least one base (except for silicate) and having pH ranging from 9.0 to 13.5.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A preparation method for a lithographic printing plate, which comprises forming a presensitized plate by coating a photosensitive layer or thermosensitive layer on an anodized aluminum substrate treated with an aqueous solution, image-wise exposing the plate and developing the plate with a developer comprising no silicate, wherein the aqueous solution comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of nitrite group-containing compound, fluorine atom-containing compound and phosphorous atom-containing compound, with the proviso that when the at least one compound is fluorine atom-containing compound, the treated aluminum substrate has a surface which satisfies the formula : $0.30 \leq A/(A+B) \leq 0.90$ wherein, A represents peak area of fluorine atom (1S) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray Electron Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis (ESCA), and B represents peak area of aluminum atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA, and, when the at least one compound is phosphorous atom-containing compound, the treated aluminum substrate has a surface which satisfies the formula: $0.05 \leq A/(A+B) \leq 0.70$ wherein, A represents peak area of phosphorous atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA, and B represents peak area of aluminum atom (2P) (counts·eV/sec) determined by X ray ESCA, and wherein an intermediate layer is present between the anodized aluminum substrate and the

photosensitive layer or thermosensitive layer and said intermediate layer is comprised of polymer compound comprising acid group.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the nitrite group-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrous acid, metal salt of nitrous acid and ammonium salt of nitrous acid.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the fluorine atom-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of metal fluoride and hexafluorozirconic acid, hexafluorotitanic acid, hexafluorosilicic acid, fluorophosphoric acid, and metal or ammonium salt thereof.

18. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the phosphorous atom-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, phosphotungstic acid, phosphomolybdic acid, fluorophosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid, polyphosphoric acid, metaphosphoric acid, metal or ammonium salt thereof, and phosphonic acid group-containing compound.

19. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the developer comprising no silicate is a developer comprising (a) at least one sugar selected from non-reducing sugars and (b) at least one base (except for silicate) and having pH ranging from 9.0 to 13.5.